

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2005

The Honorable Charles H. Taylor  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norman D. Dicks  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Taylor and Ranking Member Dicks,

We are writing to urge you to accept the Senate-passed funding level of \$1.1 billion for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) in the Interior Appropriations Conference Agreement for Fiscal Year 2006. The House-passed level of \$850 million, which represents a reduction in funding of more than 22 percent, will have a devastating impact on the ability of our states and communities to continue upgrading their wastewater infrastructure and meeting Clean Water Act requirements.

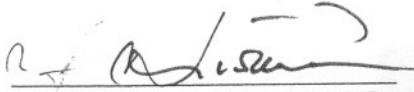
Discharges from aging and failing sewerage systems, urban storm water, and other sources continue to pose serious threats to our nation's lakes, rivers and estuaries, endangering not only public health but fishing and recreation industries. Despite important progress over the last three decades, the EPA reports that 40 percent of our nation's assessed waters are still too impaired for fishing or swimming. Further, population growth and development are placing additional stress on the nation's water infrastructure and its ability to sustain hard-won water quality gains.

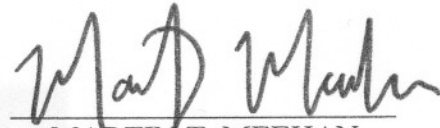
The Congressional Budget Office estimates a spending gap for clean water needs somewhere between \$132 billion and \$388 billion over the next 20 years. The EPA's *Clean Water and Drinking Water Infrastructure Gap Analysis* found that there would be a \$535 billion backlog of water and wastewater infrastructure projects by 2019 if additional investments are not made. The House's funding level, which represents a reduction in clean water infrastructure funding of more than 22 percent, will only exacerbate this current backlog of water infrastructure projects.

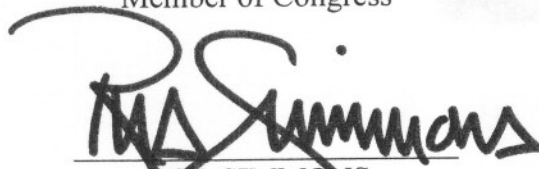
Critical sectors of our economy rely on clean water, including the \$45 billion commercial fishing industry; the soft drink manufacturers that generate \$54 billion in sales; and the manufacturing sector that uses more than 13 trillion gallons of clean water each year. Investments in water infrastructure also have a well-documented record of success in job creation and economic development. According to the American Public Works Association, every billion dollars invested in water and wastewater infrastructure construction creates over 40,000 jobs.

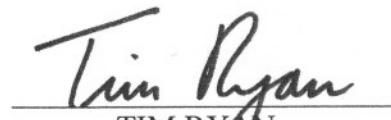
It is vitally important the federal government maintain its strong partnership with state and local governments and avert this massive projected backlog. We urge you to accept the Senate-passed funding level of \$1.1 billion for the Clean Water SRF to protect the safety of our nation's water.

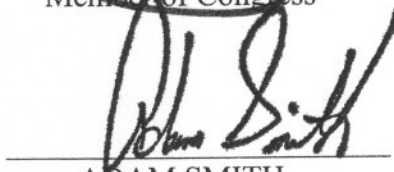
Sincerely,

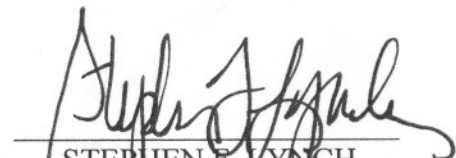
  
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Member of Congress


  
MARTIN T. MEEHAN  
Member of Congress

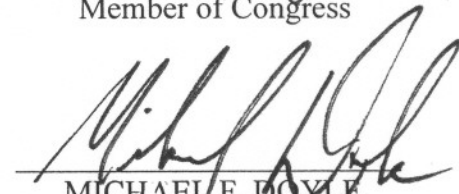
  
ROB SIMMONS  
Member of Congress

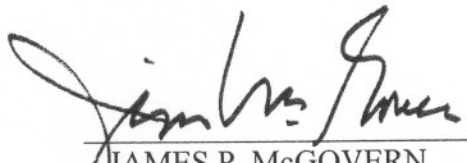
  
TIM RYAN  
Member of Congress


  
ADAM SMITH  
Member of Congress

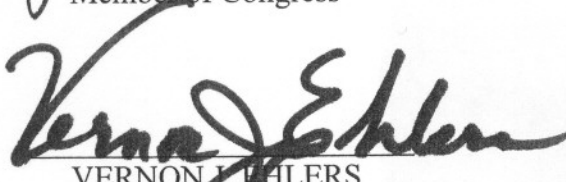
  
STEPHEN F. LYNCH  
Member of Congress


  
CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, Jr.  
Member of Congress

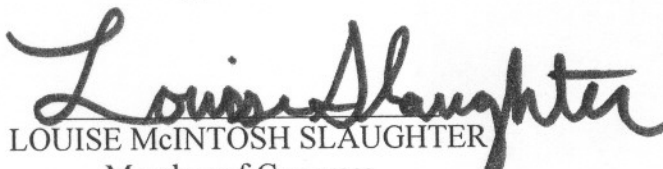
  
MICHAEL F. DOYLE  
Member of Congress

  
JAMES P. McGOVERN  
Member of Congress

  
JOHN B. LARSON  
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VERNON J. EHLERS  
Member of Congress

  
TAMMY BALDWIN  
Member of Congress

  
LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER  
Member of Congress

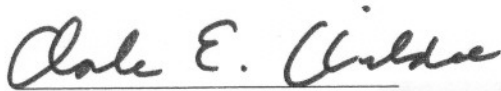
  
BART STUPAK  
Member of Congress



THADDEUS G. McCOTTER  
Member of Congress



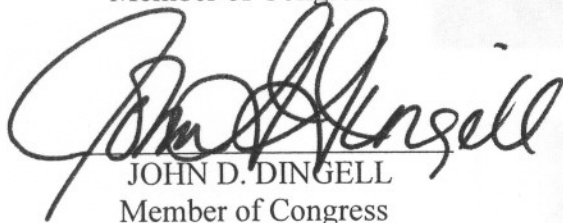
RON KIND  
Member of Congress



DALE E. KILDEE  
Member of Congress



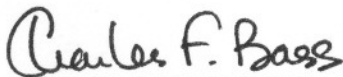
RICK BOUCHER  
Member of Congress



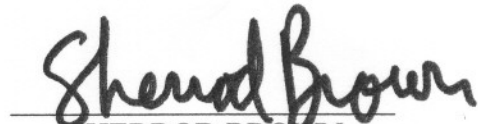
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Member of Congress



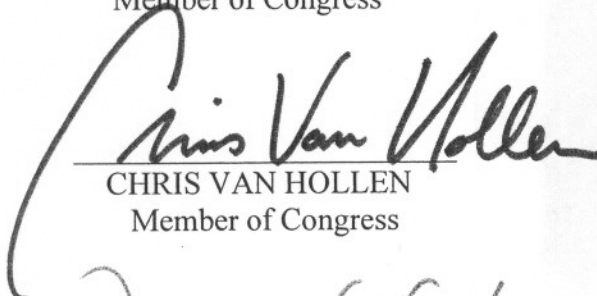
SHERWOOD BOEHLERT  
Member of Congress



CHARLES F. BASS  
Member of Congress



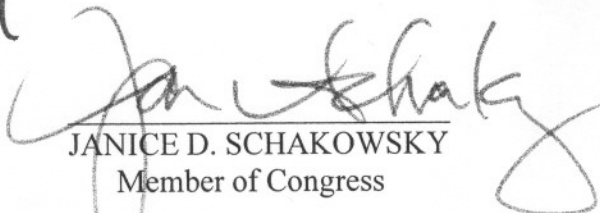
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Member of Congress



BILL PASCRELL, Jr.  
Member of Congress



JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY  
Member of Congress



BERNARD SANDERS  
Member of Congress



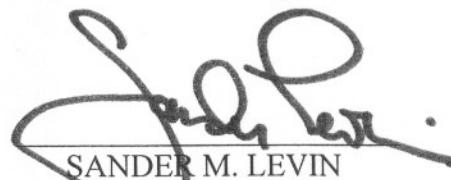
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BARBARA LEE  
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SANDER M. LEVIN  
Member of Congress



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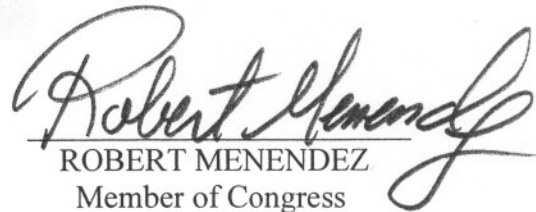
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EMANUEL CLEAVER  
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